

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011248

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, ACLM, GR, GW, US

SUBJECT:FRG/GREEK AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF WORLD WAR I
CLAIMS

REFS: (A) STATE 258502; (B) BONN 18531; (C) BONN 18906

1. IN CONNECTION WITH ITS STUDY OF ATTORNEYS' BRIEF MENTIONED REFTEL A, DEPARTMENT HAS HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH NOMIKOS AND PAPADOPOULOS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR GOG REVOCATION OF ITS EARLIER ASSIGNMENT TO ATTORNEYS OF FEES TO BE PAID DIRECTLY BY FRG. PAPADOPOULOS SAID THAT ASSIGNMENT WAS REVOKED BECAUSE OF GERMAN UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO ATTORNEYS. AT PAPADOPOULOS REQUEST, DEPARTMENT FURNISHED PAPADOPOULOS COPY OF BRIEF JANUARY 15. ASSUME HE WILL FORWARD IT TO ATHENS.

2. DEPARTMENT ALSO UNDERSTANDS FROM CONVERSATION WITH JAMES ARMENAKIS, WHO WORKS WITH ATTORNEYS CLAY AND HOUSER IN THIS MATTER, THAT AMERICAN ATTORNEYS HAVE SUGGESTED TO GREEK EMBASSY HERE ISSUE BE SETTLED BY FRG PAYMENT INTO GERMAN BANK ACCOMPANIED BY IRREVOCABLE ORDER TO BANK BY GOG TO IMMEDIATELY PAY OUT ATTORNEYS FEE. ACCORDING TO ARMENAKIS,
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THIS SOLUTION ACCOMMODATES TO GERMAN UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE

DIRECT PAYMENTS AS WELL AS ASSURING THAT FUNDS DO NOT NEED TO GO BACK TO GREECE AND BECOME INVOLVED IN GREEK INTERNAL PROBLEMS BEFORE BEING PAID TO ATTORNEYS. REPRESENTATIVE IN

ATHENS, MRS. WAMVETSOS, ALSO HAS BEEN HOLDING FAVORABLE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS BANK SOLUTION WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WILL BE MEETING AGAIN ON SATURDAY.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED TO GREEK REPRESENTATIVE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT, IT IS CONSIDERING TWO ISSUES: (A) WHETHER THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL BE GIVING ADEQUATE NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS - ON THIS WE MAY WISH TO URGE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO SEND WRITTEN NOTICE TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE AVAILABLE, AND ATTEMPT TO REACH THE OTHERS THROUGH PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS; AND (B) WHETHER, AS ATTORNEYS CLAIM, ACTIONS OF GREEK GOVERNMENT AND FRG IN FAILING TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT PAYMENT TO ATTORNEYS CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF PROVISIONS OF LONDON DEBT AGREEMENT. IF PARTIES COULD ARRIVE AT AN AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF PAYMENT TO ATTORNEYS, THIS WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR FURTHER DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE.

4. IF GOG RAISES THIS SUBJECT, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE THEM THE ABOVE INFORMATION. YOU SHOULD ALSO INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF GOG'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. WAMVETSOS.
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